

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4794

### 1. Name

Historic 206 – 218 North Duncan Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 206 – 218 North Duncan Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	X private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	X yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

### 4. Owner of Property

name  
street & number  
city, town state & zip code telephone

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber  
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio  
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title  
date federal state county local  
depository for survey records  
city, town state & zip code

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## 7. Description

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check One**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check One**

☒ original site  
☐ moved:  
date of move: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This row of seven two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in the late 1880s. The brick facades were originally painted, with the basements painted white, to imitate the marble used in more expensive houses. All of the houses have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, a mix of 15'9" wide (at the south end of the row) and 12' wide and occupy lots 49' deep. Each house is only two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are probably constructed in running bond and were originally painted, but evidence is obscured beneath the formstone. The basement area was painted white, to imitate marble, as was common in houses of this type. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves that frame a deep, plain lower frieze area. The upper frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of leaf-like shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, and brick sills. No original 2/2 sash survive and many of the openings are empty or boarded over. Doorways originally had a single-light transom. No original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by one, two, three, or four concrete or brick steps, depending on the incline of the street.

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## 8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1888

Builder/Architect

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,200 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later.

In this neighborhood both main and small street houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

state & zip code Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of private property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



A L

B-4794

206-218 N. Duncan

BALTO. MD

FFERSON

IRLEANS

FAYETTE

MOUNT

IMORE

N. WOLFE

N. CHAPEL

N. WASHINGTON

N. CASTLE

N. CHESTER

N. COLLINGTON

N. COLLINGTON AV.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL NO 17

PUBLIC SCHOOL

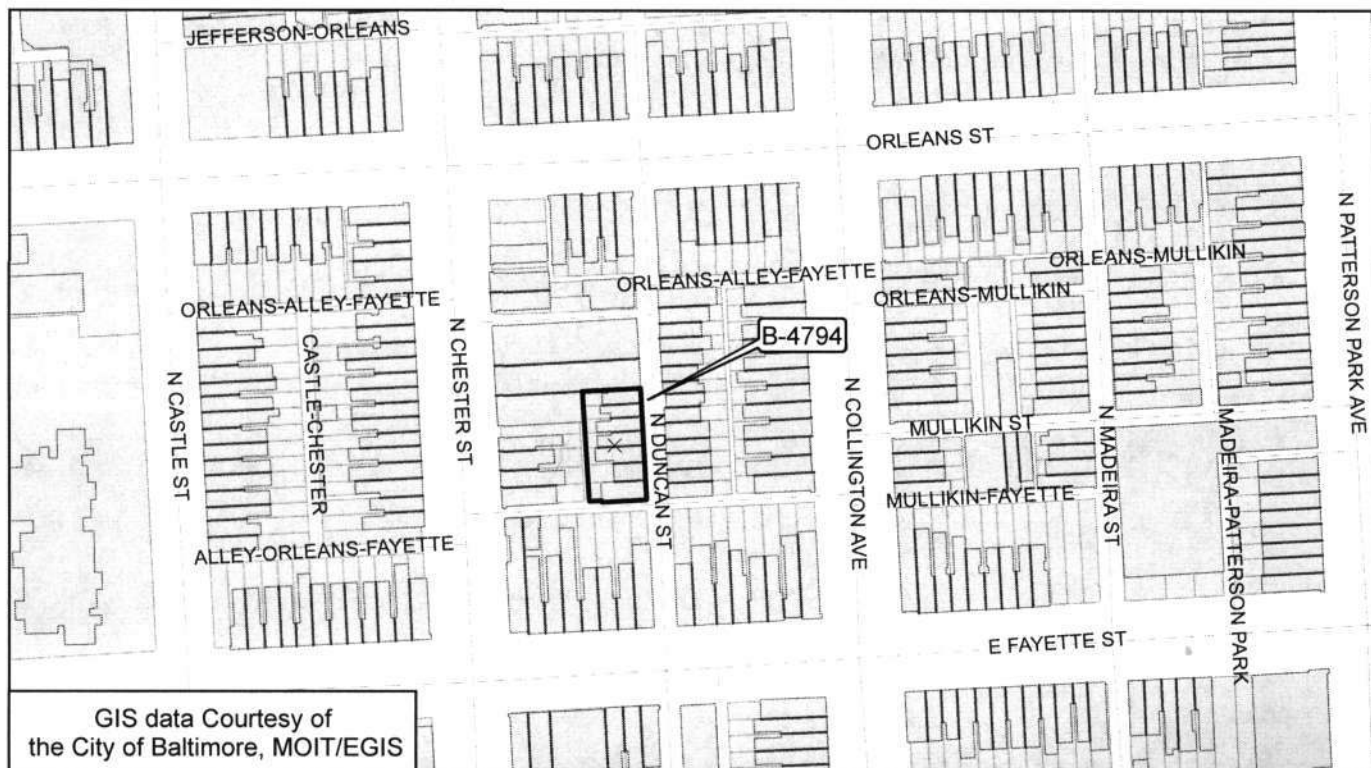
CHESTER ST. M. E. CHURCH

DUNCAN CARRIAGE WORKS

MOYER ST.

COAL YARD

B-4794  
206-218 N. Duncan Street  
Block 1687, Lots 055-061  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





204-218 N. Duncan

C-2-

B-4794

204-218 N. Duncan St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

8/97

1/2





204 N. Duncan

1-2

B-4794

204 W. Duncan St.

B.A. to, MI.

C. Belfour

8/97

202